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*Secretary for
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State Water Resources Control Board

Executive Office

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

April 30, 2004

Interested Parties

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SOLICITATION OF WATER QUALITY DATA AND INFORMATION— 2004 CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 303(d) LIST

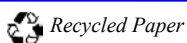
The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is required by federal Clean Water Act section 303(d) and Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations section 130.7 to develop a list of water quality limited segments (section 303[d] list). This letter initiates a 45-day solicitation period to request from interested parties numeric data and information regarding water quality conditions in surface waters of California. Data and information received will be used to assess the State's water bodies for possible inclusion on or removal from the existing section 303(d) list. Water bodies not meeting water quality standards after implementation of certain technology-based water quality controls will be placed on the 2004 section 303(d) list.

Water bodies are listed due to deleterious impacts from a pollutant or pollutants and delisted when evidence reveals that such impacts have ceased or never existed. Waters placed on the section 303(d) list will be subject to development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). As required by federal law, water bodies on the section 303(d) list will be scheduled for development of TMDLs. A revised section 303(d) list is planned for submittal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in February 2005. The final list will be based on data and information available to SWRCB no later than the final day of this solicitation period, June 14, 2004. The information gathered in this solicitation will also contribute to the preparation of the 2004 federal Clean Water Act section 305(b) Report on Water Quality.

Regarding this solicitation and the ensuing section 303(d) listing/delisting process, please note the following:

1. SWRCB is currently engaged in the process to adopt the "Water Quality Control Policy for Developing California Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List" (Listing Policy). The Listing Policy will provide guidance on the review and assessment of supporting data and information used to decide which candidate water bodies are placed on or removed from the section 303(d) list. All readily available data and information submitted pursuant to this solicitation will be reviewed and assessed using the final approved Listing Policy. Requirements for data and information from the Listing Policy—including those for quality control and assurance, temporal and spatial characteristics, and minimum sample sizes—will be followed when reviewing all data and information. The provisions of the Listing Policy will not be applied until the Listing Policy has been approved by SWRCB and the Office of Administrative Law.

California Environmental Protection Agency



2. Anyone, including but not limited to, private citizens, public agencies, local, State and federal governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses possessing information regarding the quality of the State's waters may contribute data and information pursuant to this solicitation.
3. All available data and assessment information generated since May 15, 2001 will be considered.
4. All new data and information must be received by SWRCB by the close of business on June 14, 2004. Information received after June 14, 2004 will be considered in developing the 2006 section 303(d) list submitted by California to USEPA.
5. An interested party may request reassessment of a water body on the existing section 303(d) list. The interested party must (a) describe the reason(s) the listing is inappropriate and clearly state the reason the interested party would come to a different outcome, and (b) provide the data and information necessary to enable SWRCB to conduct a complete reassessment.
6. All data and information submitted should include the following:
 - a. Name of the person or organization providing the information;
 - b. Mailing address, phone number, and email address of a contact responsible for answering questions about the information submitted;
 - c. Bibliographic citations for all published information provided;
 - d. To the extent possible, all information should be submitted in electronic format (e.g., Microsoft [MS] Word, Access database, Excel spreadsheet, ASCII, or Adobe Acrobat files);
 - e. Detailed quality assurance and quality control information about sampling and analysis of all numeric data;
 - f. Water body name and California water body identification number (available from local RWQCB). The preferred statewide Geographic Information System (GIS) projection is the California Teale Albers, NAD27. Please refer to the following web site for details on the Teale Albers projection for GIS information: <http://gis.ca.gov/albers.epl>;
 - g. Geographic extent of the potential water quality limited segment;
 - h. Pollutant(s) of concern;
 - i. Applicable water quality objective or criterion;
 - j. Comparison of results against applicable water quality objective or criterion;
 - k. Designated beneficial use(s) that may be impacted by pollutant(s);
 - l. Complete background information (metadata) for field data (i.e., when and where measurements were taken, number of samples, detection limits, etc.); and
 - m. Full identification of any citizen volunteer water quality monitoring efforts including:
 - 1) The name of the group; and
 - 2) A description of any training in water quality assessment completed by members of the group.

7. All numeric data submitted in support of new listings or changes to existing listings, should be evaluated to address the following:
 - a. data quality assurance assessment(s);
 - b. spatial representation;
 - c. temporal representation;
 - d. age(s) of the data;
 - e. effects of seasonality;
 - f. effects of any events that might influence data evaluation (e.g., storm events, flow conditions, laboratory data qualifiers, etc.);
 - g. the total number of samples;
 - h. the number of samples exceeding standards;
 - i. the source or reference for samples;
 - j. the potential sources of pollutants; and
 - k. any program that might address the water quality problem in lieu of a TMDL.
8. All non-numeric information submitted to support listing or delisting should be evaluated to address the following:
 - a. types of observations;
 - b. spatial representation;
 - c. temporal representation;
 - d. age of information;
 - e. effects of seasonality;
 - f. effects of any events that might influence data evaluation (e.g., storm events, flow conditions, etc.);
 - g. total number of samples or observations;
 - h. number of samples or observations exceeding a guideline or standard;
 - i. perspective on the magnitude of the problem;
 - j. numeric indices derived from qualitative information;
 - k. source(s) of all information; and
 - l. any program that might address the water quality problem in lieu of a TMDL.
9. For purposes of this solicitation, “information” includes any documentation that a water body is or is not meeting, or is or is not likely to meet, existing water quality standards (i.e., beneficial uses of water, water quality objectives/criteria, and the State's non-degradation policy as listed in the State's Water Quality Control Plans [Basin Plans], statewide water quality control plans [e.g., the California Ocean Plan], the California Code of Regulations, and pertinent federal laws and regulations).
10. “Data” are considered to be numeric information (i.e., measurements of specific physical, chemical, or biological characteristics in aquatic environments).

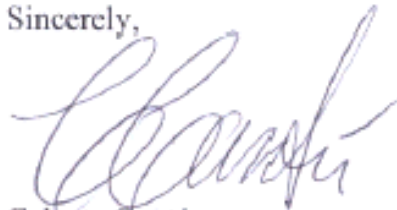


11. Data and information provided may pertain to individual water body segments, entire water bodies, or whole watersheds.
12. The section 303(d) listing/delisting effort is not designed, intended, or able to change existing water quality standards. Interested parties recommending changes to existing water quality standards should contact their local Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).
13. Please send all data and information to:

Craig J. Wilson
Chief, TMDL Listing Unit
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

If you have questions regarding data or information you wish to submit or about this SWRCB notice, please contact Craig J. Wilson, Chief, TMDL Listing Unit, at (916) 341-5560 (wilscj@swrcb.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Celeste Cantú
Executive Director